

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

California is experiencing unprecedented wildfire activity with increases in the number and severity of wildfires. Fifteen of the twenty most destructive wildfires in the state's history have occurred since 2000; ten of the most destructive fires have occurred since 2015. The fire season is getting longer each year with many parts of the state experiencing nearly year-round fire danger. Climate change has led to historic periods of drought, which has created critically dangerous fuel conditions and resulted in over 147 million dead or dying trees.

Additionally, growth in the wildland urban interface has put more Californians at risk than ever before. More than 25 million acres of the state's wildlands are classified as under very high or extreme fire threat. The catastrophic wildfire activity in 2018, including the Camp, Woolsey, and Hill fires, underscores the serious dangers that current conditions pose to individuals and communities in high-risk areas of the state.

In its first 100 days, the Administration has taken decisive action to identify and implement recommendations and solutions to reduce wildfire risk; bolster the state's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capacity; and protect vulnerable communities. The May Revision builds on these efforts.

BUILDING ON GOVERNOR'S BUDGET INVESTMENTS

The Governor's Budget proposed \$769.6 million (\$521.6 million General Fund) in additional funding to enhance the state's preparedness, increase capacity to respond to emergency incidents, and increase public safety. Significant investments included:

- \$172.3 million (\$171.3 million General Fund) for California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to improve the state's emergency communication and warning systems, support the Mutual Aid system and resource pre-positioning, and fund relief efforts after disasters occur.
- \$204.6 million (\$202.2 million General Fund) for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Conservation Corps (Corps) to enhance the state's fire protection capabilities by adding 13 new year-round fire engines, 5 new CAL FIRE/Corps fire crews, and other key fire suppression resources; supporting the operation of firefighting aircraft with increased tactical effectiveness; and improving the use of technology and situational awareness capacity.
- \$235 million (\$8.4 million General Fund) for various departments to implement the recently-enacted Wildfire Prevention and Recovery Legislative Package and increase the pace and scale of forest health and fire prevention activities.
- \$126.4 million (\$108.4 million General Fund) to update and improve public safety radio communication.
- \$31.3 million General Fund to backfill wildfire-related property tax revenue loss for cities, counties, and special districts as well as funding to waive the local share of debris removal costs.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION REPORT

In recognition of dangerous fire conditions, the Administration issued Executive Order N-05-19 on January 8, 2019. The Executive Order directed CAL FIRE to collaborate with other state agencies and departments to recommend a series of actions and administrative, policy, and regulatory changes needed to prevent destructive wildfires. The Executive Order further emphasized the need for these actions to be targeted to protect the populations at the greatest risk from wildfires.

On March 5, 2019, CAL FIRE released the Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report with 19 recommendations for immediate, medium-term, and long-term actions to help the state decrease the risks associated with catastrophic wildfires. The report

applies risk-based factors so that implementation of the recommended activities will support the protection of the most vulnerable communities across the state.

One of the report's central recommendations is to accelerate completion of 35 priority fuel reduction projects identified through CAL FIRE's risk-based assessment. Completion of these projects will reduce fire risk and increase resiliency for over 200 communities across the state. Additionally, the report recommends that the state deploy National Guard crews and other emergency response resources to complete fire prevention projects, consistent with recent action taken by the Administration to make National Guard personnel available to CAL FIRE for this purpose.

WILDFIRES AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY FUTURE

In early January, the Governor's strike force was created to coordinate the state's efforts to provide for the safety, reliability, and affordability of energy as well as to continue progress toward achieving the state's climate commitments. The Administration directed the strike force, within 60 days, to develop a comprehensive strategy to address the impacts of catastrophic wildfires and climate change and their destabilizing effect on the energy sector. Accordingly, the strike force's report, *Wildfires and Climate Change: California's Energy Future*, was released on April 12, 2019 and makes a series of recommendations to accomplish the following objectives:

- Reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires, strengthen emergency response, and build community resiliency.
- Mitigate climate change through clean energy policies.
- Provide a fair and equitable allocation of wildfire costs and damages.
- Make necessary changes to stabilize utilities to meet the energy needs of customers and the economy.

The report provides a roadmap for the state to meet the daunting challenges ahead and increase the safety and security of all Californians while providing continued access to safe and affordable energy.

CURRENT YEAR ACTIONS

The Administration and Legislature have already taken swift action to address urgent needs associated with disaster preparedness and response as well as state and local recovery from recent catastrophic wildfire events. This includes:

- Accelerating implementation of the 35 priority fuel reduction projects identified in the Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report to protect over 200 at-risk communities across the state using existing forest health and fire prevention funding. The recently issued State of Emergency Proclamation will support these efforts by providing waivers to suspend state administrative and regulatory requirements to enable projects to be completed more quickly.
- Redirecting up to 100 National Guard personnel to create fuel reduction and fire suppression crews that are available to CAL FIRE to undertake priority projects, as authorized through General Order 2019-01.
- Launching the California for All Emergency Preparedness Campaign, a joint initiative between Cal Volunteers and Cal OES, to connect vulnerable populations with culturally and linguistically competent support and bolster resiliency. The \$50 million campaign will support dispatching of expert disaster teams to key regions and the development of targeted public awareness and outreach campaigns.
- Providing funding from the California Disaster Assistance Act and Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Account within the Special Fund for Economic Uncertainties to support critical disaster relief and recovery activities, including debris removal, shelter support, and remediation activities.

The May Revision builds upon these investments and the Administration's accomplishments over its first 100 days to further strengthen the state's emergency response capacity, reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfires, and protect communities at risk.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

Based on lessons learned and because of the increased magnitude, frequency, and complexity of recent disasters, the May Revision includes \$39.9 million (\$38.6 million General Fund) and 159.5 positions for various departments to enhance the state's disaster preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities; support the continuity of state government during disasters; and increase technical proficiency to best position the state to maximize appropriate federal reimbursements of billions of dollars. This includes resources for departments to: enhance disaster contingency planning and preparedness, provide funding to support Cal OES mission tasking, and facilitate the development of a Statewide Disaster Reserve Corps for surge capacity during disasters.

DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND PREPAREDNESS

The May Revision proposes the following resources to support disaster contingency planning and preparedness:

- Office of Emergency Services—\$5.9 million in ongoing funds (\$5.1 million General Fund) and 76 positions to enhance Cal OES disaster preparedness and response capacity for future state disasters. Without the appropriate tracking and coordination of disaster costs, California would be at risk of losing federal funding.
- Department of Housing and Community Development—\$2 million General Fund (with \$740,000 in ongoing resources) and four positions to create a permanent Disaster Response and Recovery Unit that will provide housing expertise in coordination with statewide disaster recovery efforts and to hire a consultant that will conduct local needs assessments related to the 2018 Camp and Woolsey fires as well as create local long-term recovery plan frameworks.
- State Water Resources Control Board—\$1 million ongoing General Fund and six positions to improve emergency response capabilities between the State Water Board, regional boards, and other state entities during emergencies. These resources will enable the Water Board to lessen the impacts of disasters on vulnerable populations by addressing a wide range of issues in the periods following and between emergencies, including addressing engineering and operation issues facing drinking water systems and waste water utilities, and preventing or minimizing impacts to water quality, water supply security, and safety.
- Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery—\$2.8 million ongoing General Fund and 21.5 positions for the Department to continue its significant role in emergency response mission tasking responsibilities. These resources will establish a dedicated team to help facilitate timely, safe, and effective debris removal operations as well as to assist local governments in the preparation of debris removal plans for future incidents.
- Emergency Medical Services Authority—\$979,000 ongoing General Fund and two positions to increase disaster medical services capacity, including coordination of medical assets during emergency response efforts and one-time purchases of medical treatment and communications equipment.
- Department of Public Health—\$959,000 in ongoing funds (\$569,000 General Fund) and six positions to support health care facilities and mass care shelters during emergencies as well as disaster preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Activities will include deployment of infection control teams and continuous updates to an existing health facility mapping application used during disasters.

- Department of State Hospitals—\$996,000 ongoing General Fund and six positions to improve emergency coordination and preparedness, and business continuity planning at five state hospitals and the Department of State Hospitals headquarters. The additional resources will enhance the Department's ability and capacity to more effectively care for patients and coordinate staff in the event of a disaster.
- Department of Social Services—\$2.9 million ongoing General Fund and 20 positions to support the Department of Social Services' mandated disaster planning, coordination, and training activities. The Department is responsible for statewide mass care and shelter responsibilities, as designated by Cal OES.

EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUNDING

The May Revision includes \$20 million one-time General Fund for a state mission tasking appropriation within the Cal OES budget. In addition, \$1.5 million and 12 positions are proposed for Cal OES to coordinate with all state agency responders as a part of effectively managing and monitoring this appropriation given it will be responsible for the distribution of these funds. When state entities are mission tasked, some staffing costs associated with those activities are not absorbable within existing budgets, nor are these costs eligible for the California Disaster Assistance Act or Disaster Response-Emergency Operations Act funding. This proposed state mission tasking appropriation provides a resource to fund state entities for costs incurred when mission tasked, and to fund surge capacity needs of the Statewide Disaster Reserve Corps described below.

STATEWIDE DISASTER RESERVE CORPS

The May Revision includes \$711,000 ongoing General Fund and 6 positions to initiate development of a statewide Disaster Reserve Corps resource pool for surge capacity needs. This resource pool will be able to backfill departments for steady-state activities, assist with continuity planning, and identify pre-screened qualified candidates to be part of needed incident support teams to assist in state preparedness and readiness.

PUBLIC SAFETY POWER SHUTDOWN

The May Revision includes a one-time investment of \$75 million General Fund to improve resiliency of the state's critical infrastructure in response to investor-owned

utility-led Public Safety Power Shutdown (PSPS) actions, and to provide assistance to communities, where appropriate, as specific urgent needs are identified.

Investor-owned utilities (IOUs) have signaled their intent to significantly increase the use of PSPS on their energized power lines to prevent wildfires during high wind or other severe weather events. As a result, affected areas may be without power for several hours, days, and in some cases, over a week. Given the configuration of power grids and limited weather-monitoring capacities, at times, IOUs may be unable to implement PSPS in targeted areas, which could result in larger regional areas being impacted.

This proposal will provide a flexible source of funding to facilitate immediate response to utility initiated power shutdowns. In addition, planning grants to improve local preparedness for IOU-driven PSPS events would be available to the state's Operational Areas' (Counties) Offices of Emergency Management to convene regional stakeholders to discuss PSPS preparedness efforts, update emergency plans for PSPS events, and hold trainings, discussions, and exercises to reinforce planning assumptions.

The May Revision also includes \$41 million Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account to fund inspections and improve review of both utility wildfire mitigation plans and PSPS reports. Specifically, this includes \$38 million for one-time contract resources over three years to investigate and verify utility compliance with wildfire mitigation plans and to improve the California Public Utilities Commission's (PUC) oversight and evaluation of wildfire mitigation plans. It also includes funding to support 16 positions to oversee these contracts, facilitate these efforts, and streamline PUC regulatory processes.

PROPERTY TAX BACKFILLS

The May Revision includes one-time \$518,000 General Fund to reimburse cities, counties and special districts for 2018-19 property tax losses resulting from the 2018 wildfires. This augments the \$31.3 million proposed in the 2019-20 Governor's Budget, and subsequently added to the 2018 Budget Act by Chapter 1, Statutes of 2019 (AB 72).

The additional \$518,000 is for the local agencies in Los Angeles, Mendocino, Napa, Orange, San Diego, Solano, Tuolumne, and Ventura counties that suffered property tax losses due to the 2018 wildfires but had not been able to calculate these totals timely to be included in the Governor's Budget. They are now included in the May Revision.

The corresponding property tax loss for K-14 schools is \$530,000. This will be backfilled under the Proposition 98 school funding mechanism.

CAMP FIRE RECOVERY

On November 8, 2018, a state of emergency was declared for Butte County due to the effects of the Camp Fire—the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history. The Camp Fire destroyed more than 18,000 structures and 90 percent of the Town of Paradise, which was home to almost 27,000 residents. The May Revision includes \$10 million one-time General Fund to support local communities in their recovery from the unprecedented devastation of the Camp Fire.

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

The May Revision includes \$15.7 million one-time General Fund to build on the investments proposed in the Governor's Budget to enhance CAL FIRE's fire protection capabilities and increase the pace and scale of forest health and fire prevention activities. The funding proposed in the May Revision aligns with key recommendations from the Community Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Report as well as the strike force's report.

- California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report—A one-time increase of \$730,000 General Fund to support the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in certifying the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the California Vegetation Treatment Program. The EIR will help CAL FIRE and other partner agencies increase the pace and scale of fire prevention activities and work toward achieving the statewide goal of increasing forest management treatments from 250,000 to 500,000 acres per year on non-federal forest lands, as recommended in the Forest Carbon Plan.
- Innovation Procurement Sprint—A one-time increase of \$15 million General Fund to enable CAL FIRE to procure innovative solutions to combat the state's wildfire crisis consistent with Executive Order N-04-19. The Executive Order directs CAL FIRE to engage in a modified procurement process, referred to as the Innovation Procurement Sprint, developed by the California Department of Technology and Department of General Services. Through this process, CAL FIRE will work collaboratively with vendors to identify and develop new and innovative solutions through the proof of concept phase and ultimately procure and deploy approved solutions to help the state address challenges associated with increased wildfire activity.

CATASTROPHIC LIVESTOCK DISEASE PREVENTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

On May 16, 2018, virulent Newcastle Disease, a fatal viral disease affecting birds and poultry, was detected in Los Angeles County. While the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) engaged in efforts to contain and eradicate the disease, the virus spread into new areas of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura and Alameda Counties, as well as to Utah and Arizona. As a result, over 1.2 million birds have been euthanized.

Although Newcastle Disease does not have significant human health impacts, if it spreads to the Central Valley, it would be devastating to poultry health, impact the supply of poultry to the West Coast, and may result in significant economic loss. This disease is one of several foreign livestock diseases that require a well-coordinated state response. An immediate and sustained response is needed to minimize the impacts before widespread infection occurs.

These disease outbreaks and recent disasters illustrate the need for enhanced prevention and response infrastructure. The May Revision includes \$3.3 million ongoing General Fund and 23 positions to:

- Perform emergency response activities during catastrophic livestock or poultry disease outbreaks,
- Coordinate assistance for animal needs during disasters,
- Support community preparedness and volunteer mobilization for pet and livestock evacuation, housing, and treatment during disasters,
- Develop or update prevention and response plans that utilize current best practices,
- Train CDFA staff and other federal and local responders, maximally leveraging emergency response discipline specialists, and
- Enhance disease prevention programs in the highest risk areas of the state.

